



HF Happenings 793

Volume 16, Issue 4, the week of 30 April 2018



Antique Wireless Association AM/SSB Valve QSO Party On 5 And 6 May

The AWA Valve QSO Party is a phone contest held over two sessions on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May 2018. On Saturday afternoon the AM session will be on the air from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC and on Sunday the SSB session will run from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC. Activity on both days takes place on 40 metres between 7 063 and 7 100 kHz and on 80 metres between 3 603 and 3 650 kHz with your call sign a RS report, a consecutive serial number starting at 001 and the type of radio used, e.g. HT37 Tx as the exchange.

Log sheets must be submitted by 25 May by e-mail to andyzs6ady@vodamail.co.za or by mail to the Antique Wireless Association of Southern Africa, PO Box 12320, Benoryn, 1504. Certificates will be awarded to the first three places in each category (AM/SSB). Please consult the 2018 SARL Contest Manual for all the information.

LOTW

Logbook of The World (LoTW) now has a full-time status monitor - <https://status.lotw.arrrl.org/>. The system's status is displayed in real time and is available offsite, offering a single spot for all users to quickly check what's happening with the online repository of contacts and confirmations. At a glance, the LoTW status monitor shows if the system is up, paused, or down; overall uptime statistics and quick stats. A green status means all systems are go, a red status means the system is down and a black status means the system has been paused. The monitor indicates overall uptime for the past 24 hours, the past 7 days and the past 30 days, as well as the most-recent downtime occurrence.

Intrepid Spirit Award

The Intrepid-DX Group is pleased to announce that Yuris Peterson, YL2GM and Kaspars Uztics, YL1ZF are the recipients of the 2018 "Intrepid Spirit Award" for their activations of Annobon Island and Equatorial Guinea as 3COL and 3C1L. The awards will be presented in Dayton next month. In addition, Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM is the recip-

You can now download your copy of
HF Happenings from
www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

May

- 1 - Worker's Day
- 3 - World Press Freedom Day
- 5 - SDR Workshop at the NARC; National Alpaca Day; Applewood Harvest Market and Tru-Cape Trail Run, Grabouw
- 5 and 6 - AWA Valve QSO Party
- 6 - Ngwenya Country Market, Muldersdrift; Music at Makarnaga, Durban
- 8 - Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War
- 10 - Ascension Day
- 12 - World Migratory Bird Day; ONERUN, Cape Town
- 13 - Mother's Day
- 15 - International Day of Families
- 16 - Start of Ramadan
- 19 - May RAE (10:00 to 13:00 CAT) and AMSATSA Space Symposium
- 20 - ZS3 Sprint
- 21 - Closing date for AWA Valve QSO Party logs
- 24 - Closing date for June Radio ZS
- 25 - Cape Town ARC meeting
- 26 Shiraz and Charcuterie Festival, Franschhoek
- 25 and 26 - CQ WPX CW contest; Pretoria ARC rally communications at the Secunda SCC; Stoep Tasting Wine Weekend, Graaff-Reinet
- 25 to 27 - South Africa Bike Festival, Kyalami; Greyton Genadendal Classics Festival
- 27 - Closing date ZS3 Sprint logs
- 31 to 3 June - Wacky Wine Weekend, Robertson

June

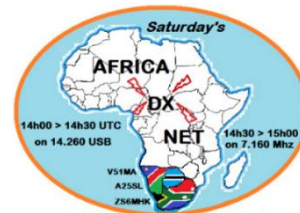
- 1 to 3 - Ham Radio 2018 in Friedrichshafen
- 2 - West Rand ARC Flea Market
- 4 - World Environmental Day
- 8 - World Oceans Day
- 10 - Hammies Sprint
- 15 - Eid-al-Fitr
- 16 - Youth Day; East Rand ARC Flea Market
- 17 - Father's Day; World QRP Day; closing date for Hammies log sheets
- 21 - Winter Solstice
- 21 to 25 - SARL Top Band QSO Party
- 22 - all schools close; closing date for the July Radio ZS
- 23 - Cape Town ARC meeting
- 30 - World Asteroid Day; end of the SARL Financial year

ient of the "Intrepid Humanitarian Award" for his many years of volunteering in the Bolivian Rain Forest to help establish and maintain communications between remote villages and hospitals and medical clinics.

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

Kingdom of Eswatini, 3D6/3DA0 (New Country Name). King Mswati III of Swaziland announced on Wednesday, April 18th, that he was renaming the country "the Kingdom of eSwatini". The monarch announced the change in a stadium during celebrations for the country's 50th anniversary of Swazi independence and the king's 50th birthday. The new name, eSwatini, means "land of the Swazis". The new name does not change the DXCC status of this entity. For more details, see the following URLs www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-43821512 and www.theglobeandmail.com/world/video-swaziland-re-named-eswatini-by-africas-last-absolute-monarch



Mozambique, C8. A large, mainly Belgian, group will be active as C8T from Bilene (KG64QO) in Mozambique from 2 to 15 May. They will operate SSB, CW and RTTY on 160 to 10 metres with four stations. A fifth station will operate 2 m EME, 60 m and extra digimodes on all bands. Visit <http://dxpedition.c8t.cc/> for all the information.

Malawi, 7Q. Arnold, WB6OJB, will be active as 7Q7JK from Malawi between 20 and 25 July. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres SSB only. QSL via WB6OJB only, no bureau or LoTW.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Mozambique, C96/C98 (Reminder/2 IOTA Ops). Members of the Russian Robinson Club (RRC) will be active as C96RRC (AF-088) and C98RRC (AF-066). Operators are Vasily, R7AL, Vasily, RA1ZZ, Al, RZ3K, Vlad, RK8A and Aleksei, RN3BZ. The pilot station will be Victor, UA3AKO. Their tentative schedule is 29 April to 3 May - from Mozambique Island (AF-088) as C96RRC (now active) and from 5 to 9 May from Inhaca Island (AF-066) as C98RRC.

Activity will be on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and the digital modes. QSL via R7AL or ClubLog's OQRS (preferred). In 2018, the RRC is celebrating their 25th anniversary of "Russian Robinson Club". They now have a Web page online at <https://dxpedition.wixsite.com/mozambique>



Rodrigues Island, 3B9. FR4NP, FR4PF, FR4PM, FR5CB and FR5FC will be active as 3B9RUN from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) between 11 and 16 May. They will operate SSB and FT8 on 80 to 10 metres. QSL via EA7FTR.

Seychelles, S7. Michael, VK4EF is working on the islands of Mahe and La Digue (both count for IOTA AF-024), Seychelles until 31 May. In his spare time, he operates SSB, JT65, FT8 and QRS CW as S79LD. QSL direct to home call.

3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition News

Update/dated 26 April

To the DX Community... There have been several important milestones reached and decisions made in the last few weeks. We have received a partial reimbursement on our payments made to DAP, our transportation contractor. In our view, this it is a fair settlement with them.

Our vessel, Betanzos is now back in Punta Arenas and we believe the container with our personal gear and equipment are intact. We will be arranging to transport the container back to the US, arriving in a few months. It has become apparent that the chance of finding a suitable and affordable vessel for the 2018/19 Austral season is becoming less and less likely. It appears that the very earliest that we could mount a second attempt to activate Bouvet would be the 2019/20 season or possibly beyond.

Thus, we have made the decision to offer a pro-rata return of the remaining 3Y0Z DXpedition funds in our account. This will occur only after the container has arrived here and we have paid all our bills. Only then,

will we know the net balance to be distributed. As you may have concluded, this is going to be an enormous task with 137 DX Clubs and Foundations and 3 700 individual DXers. The process will take some time. We ask that you be patient as we complete this.

You will have the choice of a pro-rata return of your contribution, or you may designate a foundation or club to receive your contribution. Any "unclaimed" refunds will be proportionally distributed to the major contributing foundations. Later this year, we will explain the way to claim your refund. After the return of the funds is completed, we will close the accounting books and the bank account of 3Y0Z. This is always our procedure as each DXpedition must stand on its own. We believe this is the proper way to wrap up the DXpedition.

We all are unhappy and extremely disappointed that the project was not completed due to a mechanical failure on our vessel. This left the Captain no choice but to abort the mission for safety reasons. Please accept our team's heartfelt thanks for your outstanding support of this project.

Amateur Radio Insights

By Kirk Kleinschmidt NT0Z - nt0z@stealthamateur.com

Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio?

Did Joe Taylor K1JT, Nobel Laureate and noted friend of hams everywhere, accidentally destroy amateur radio?

Having just returned from a trip in my time machine, I can unequivocally say that history attributes the death of amateur radio to Joe Taylor in the year 2017. So, yes, he did. In fact, 2018 AD marks the beginning of the "hampocalypse," and becomes known among former ham operators as 1 AT (the first year "After Taylor").

The distinguished scientist had some help, of course, but just like the "flu" epidemic of 2027 (you'll see), in which an attenuated pathogen that was only supposed to be experimental in nature escaped into the population at large and quickly replicated itself, Taylor's FT8 digital mode grew exponentially, suffocating other modes as it mushroomed beyond any practical limits.

Read the full article at <http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 30 April to 7 May 2018

AGCW QRP/QRP Party

13:00 - 19:00 UTC 1 May

Geographic Focus: Europe

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: 5 W (A); 20 W (B)

Exchange: RST, QSO no, / and Class ID – A or B

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with class B; 2 points per QSO with class A

Multipliers: DXCC countries once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 May 2018

E-mail logs to: grp-party@agcw.de

Mail logs to: Manager, Udo Witte, DJ4FV, Sandbreite 7, D-49134 Wallenhorst, Germany

Find rules at: <http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/grp-qrp-party>

Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 May

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 4 May 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 2 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 May

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: Each call once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC May 5, 2018
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest
 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 May (Dig)
 Geographic Focus: Nordic Europe
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital
 Bands: 10 m Only
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square
 QSO Points: (see rules)
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
 Submit logs by: 17 May 2018
 Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html>

SKCC Sprint Europe
 19:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 May
 Geographic Focus: Europe
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: (see rules)
 Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
 Submit logs by: 10 May 2018
 E-mail log summary to: (none)
 Post log summary at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/skse/submit-display.php?submit_id=165
 Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/skse/

NCCC RTTY Sprint
 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 4 May
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: RTTY
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 6 May 2018
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 May
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 6 May 2018
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

MIE 33 Contest
 23:00 UTC 4 May to 03:00 UTC 5 May
 Geographic Focus: Japan
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW, Phone
 Bands: All, except WARC
 Classes: Single Op - CW or mixed; Single Op Single Band - CW or mixed; Multi-Multi - CW or mixed; SWL
 Exchange: Mie: RS(T), age and "ME"; non-Mie JA: RS(T), age and "MEJ"; non-Mie non-JA: RS(T) and age
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: (see rules)
 Multipliers: Each age once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 31 May 2018
 E-mail logs to: log-contest@jarl-mie.com
 Mail logs to: JARL Mie Branch, c/o T.Okada, 1155-299 Uninaka, Meiwa, Taki, Mie 515-0316, Japan
 Find rules at: <http://www.ztv.ne.jp/isoda/33/annual/41/41rule-e.html>

10-10 International Spring CW Contest
 00:01 UTC 5 May to 23:59 UTC 6 May
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 10 m Only
 Classes: Individual; Club; QRP
 Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
 Submit logs by: 14 May 2018
 E-mail logs to: tentencontest@ten-ten.org
 Upload log at: <http://www.hamclubs.info/scorer/>
 Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA
 Find rules at: <http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules>

ARI International DX Contest
 12:00 UTC 5 May to 11:59 UTC 6 May
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: Worldwide
 Mode: Phone, CW, RTTY
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB, RTTY or mixed - low or high; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; SWL
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
 Exchange: I: RS(T) and 2-letter province; non-I: RS(T) and serial no
 Work stations: Once per mode per band
 QSO Points: 0 points per QSO with same country; 1 point per QSO with different country same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 10 points per QSO with I/ISO/IT9 stations
 Multipliers: Each Italian province once per band; Each DXCC country once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 11 May 2018
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Upload log at: http://www.ari.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4974&Itemid=335&lang=it
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.ari.it/>

7th Call Area QSO Party
 13:00 UTC 5 May to 07:00 UTC 6 May
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party
 Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
 Classes: Single Op - CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted - CW, phone, digital or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi; Single Op County Expedition; M/S County Expedition; M/M County Expedition; Single Op Mobile - CW, phone or mixed - low or high; M/S Mobile - CW, phone or mixed - low or high
 Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: 7th Area: RS(T) and 5-letter state/county code; non-7th Area: RS(T) and state, province or DX
 Work stations: Once per band per mode per county
 QSO Points: 2 points per SSB QSO; 3 points per CW/Digital QSO
 Multipliers: 7th Area: Each state or province once; 7th Area: Each DXCC entity once (max of 10); non-7th Area: Each 7th area county once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 16 May 2018
 E-mail logs to: 7qlogs@codxc.org
 Mail logs to: 7th Call Area QSO Party, c/o CODXC, 61255 Ferguson Rd, Bend, OR 97702, USA
 Find rules at: <http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=rules>

Indiana QSO Party
 15:00 UTC 5 May to 03:00 UTC 6 May
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: Phone, CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; Mobile; Portable; Rover
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: IN: RS(T) and county; non-IN: W/VE: RS(T) and state or province; DX: RS(T) and "DX"
 Work stations: Once per band per mode
 QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO
 Multipliers: IN Stations: Each IN county, state, province once per mode; non-IN Stations: Each IN county once per mode
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 1 June 2018
 E-mail logs to: inqp@hdxcc.org
 Mail logs to: HDXCC, c/o Tim Gardner, 332 S28th St., Lafayette, IN 47904, USA
 Find rules at: <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>

Delaware QSO Party
 17:00 UTC 5 May to 23:59 UTC 6 May

Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW, Phone, Digital/RTTY
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - QRP, low or high
 Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: DE: RS(T) and County; non-DE: RS(T) and state, province or "DX"
 Work stations: Once per band per mode
 QSO Points: DE stations: 1 point per phone QSO; DE stations: 2 points per CW/RTTY/digital QSO; non-DE stations: 10 points per phone QSO; non-DE stations: 20 points per CW/RTTY/digital QSO
 Multipliers: DE: each state, province and DXCC country once; non-DE: each DE county once
 Power: >150 W = x 1, 150 W = x 2, 5 W = x 3; Bonus: x 2 for at least one QSO with K3QBD
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults x power mults x bonus mult) and 50 points electronic submission bonus
 Submit logs by: 5 June 2018
 E-mail logs to: gsoparty@gmail.com
 Mail logs to: DE QSO Party; PO Box 1050; Newark, DE 19715-1050; USA
 Find rules at: <http://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/rules.htm>

FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint
 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 5 May
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: United States/Canada
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: QRP; QRO; Club
 Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member
 Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 4 June 2018
 E-mail logs to: n2ed@fistsna.org

KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition

Press Release, date 27 April

Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints>

New England QSO Party
 20:00 UTC 5 May to 05:00 UTC 6 May and 13:00 - 24:00 UTC 6 May
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: Phone, CW/Digital
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; Mobile Single Op - QRP, low or high; Mobile Multi-Single
 Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT: RS(T) and county and state; non-NE: RS(T) and state, province or "DX"
 Work stations: Once per band per mode per county
 QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO
 Multipliers: NE Stations: Each state, province, DXCC country once; non-NE Stations: Each NE county once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 5 June 2018
 E-mail logs to: logs@neqp.org
 Mail logs to: NEQP, PO Box J, West Suffield, CT 06093, USA
 Find rules at: <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB
 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 7 May
 Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: United Kingdom
 Mode: SSB
 Bands: 80 m Only
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RS and serial no
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: (see rules)
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 8 May 2018
 Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/r80_mcc.shtml

Following a successful Visalia DX Convention, the KH1/KH7Z team met in Cupertino this week to assemble the stations and network in preparation of landing on Baker in 2 months. The DXpedition is now in the final planning stages and this step was the last before packing and shipping our gear to Fiji.

Stations - DXpedition sponsors Elecraft and DX Engineering provided the required gear. There will be 8 stations on Baker Island consisting of 8 Elecraft K3S transceivers - 7 powered by KPA500s; the 8th low band station powered by a KPA1500 amp. This is the first expedition to use a KPA1500 and the team and Elecraft are looking forward to seeing this exciting new amplifier in action. There will be 3 separate tents for CW, SSB and Digital stations.

Co-leaders K6TD and N1DG and AA7A, K6GFJ, K6MM, ND2T and N6MZ assembled the stations, activated the BGAN satellite network, interfaced the NUC computers and monitors and installed N1MM+ in a complete on-island simulation (including generator power). We also successfully simulated making QSOs and uploading sample logs to ClubLog via the BGAN.

The network was designed by our IT team led by AA7A and N6MZ and consists of rapidly deployed transit boxes containing the switches power hubs and POE repeaters. Upon reaching the island the team will deploy these cases and run out cables from the central CW tent to SSB and Digital tents. All N1MM+ computers will be networked to our centre administrative PC N1MM+ allowing 2 uploads daily via satellite to ClubLog to minimize duplicate contacts.

Antennas - although limited to 43 feet (13 metres), our 80 and 160 metre antennas are newly designed AA7JV "fat" verticals, which will sit just inside the high tide mark. The SteppiR verticals for 75 through 10 metres will also be mounted just inside of the high tide mark while four 2-element vertical arrays will be mounted away from the water for 15, 17 and 20 metres. In this way, we can maintain a 24-hour presence on 20 metres to maximize the number of unique call signs and enable the most ATNO contacts. We also intend to install a multi-vertical array for 6 metres at the digital radios.

Testing the SteppiRs and our own design of vertical arrays is all that remains before cleaning and sterilizing our gear to meet the FWS Biological Protocols and sending the gear to our freight forwarder. Please visit www.baker2018.net/pages/pretrip.html to see more pictures relating to our testing activity this week.

As with any DXpedition to the rare ones, this will be another large budget operation. The operator team will contribute over 50% of the expected budget of \$400 000. You can help make this DXpedition happen by visiting our website and contributing today www.baker2018.net/pages/donate.html
Thank you in advance for your support, The Baker Island 2018 Team

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 May
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 May
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 10 May
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 11 May
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 May
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 12 May to 12:00 UTC 13 May
CQ-M International DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 12 May to 11:59 UTC 13 May
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 12 May to 24:00 UTC 13 May
Arkansas QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 12 May to 02:00 UTC 13 May
FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 12 May
WAB 7 MHz Phone, 10:00 - 14:00 UTC 13 May
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 14 May

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter